

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in the application:

1-34. (Canceled)

35. (New) A method of providing mature hepatocytes to a subject in need thereof comprising parenterally administering to the subject a population of isolated hepatoblasts, the population having been obtained by:

(a) preparing a single cell suspension of liver cells;

(b) panning said suspension utilizing antibodies specific for mature hepatocytes, mature bile duct cells, endothelial cells, mesenchymal cells, and hemopoietic cells so as to remove mature hepatocytes, mature bile duct cells, endothelial cells, mesenchymal cells, and hemopoietic cells from said suspension;

(c) performing fluorescence activated cell sorting utilizing said antibodies so as to remove remaining mature hepatocytes, mature bile duct cells, endothelial cells, mesenchymal cells, and hemopoietic cells from said suspension; and

(d) performing multiparametric fluorescence activated cell sorting on said suspension utilizing at least one antibody to a hepatic cell marker, side scatter, forward scatter and/or autofluorescence to isolate said hepatic progenitors; and

in which the hepatoblasts differentiate into mature hepatocytes *in vivo*.

36. (New) The method of claim 35 in which the hepatoblasts are isolated from embryonic or neonatal liver.

37. (New) The method of claim 35 in which the hepatoblasts are isolated from adult human liver.

38. (New) The method of Claim 35 in which the subject in need has a liver dysfunction.

39. (New) The method of Claim 35 in which the administering comprises injecting, transplanting or grafting.

40. (New) The method of Claim 39 in which the injecting is into the spleen, portal venous system, bile duct or peritoneum of the subject.

41. (New) The method of Claim 35 in which the population of isolated hepatoblasts is obtained from a donor.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.-38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently amended) The method of treatment of Claim 43 wherein the subject is human.

40.-43. (Canceled)

44. (New) A method of providing mature hepatocytes to a subject in need thereof comprising parenterally administering to the subject a composition enriched in hepatocyte precursor cells, the composition having been obtained by culturing a population of immature liver cells, including hepatocyte precursor cells capable of differentiating into mature hepatocytes, in a serum-free culture medium, extracellular matrix and liver stromal cells, and in which the hepatocyte precursor cells differentiate into mature hepatocytes *in vivo*.

45. (New) The method of Claim 44 in which the subject is a human.

46. (New) The method of Claim 45 in which the subject in need has a liver dysfunction.

(P12) 47. (New) The method of Claim 44 in which the administering comprises injecting, transplanting, or grafting.

48. (New) The method of Claim 47 in which the injecting is into the spleen, portal venous system, ~~bile duct~~ or ~~peritoneum~~ of the subject.

49. (New) The method of Claim 44 in which the population of immature liver cells is obtained from a donor.

introduced to peritoneal space

none

implies autologous

none